

BRILLIANT BLUES

SHATTER B'MOUTH

Wycombe W. 2,
A.F.C. Bournemouth 1

THIRD Division club Bournemouth came to Loakes Park on Tuesday night bent on revenge after Wycombe Wanderers had hammered their youth team 10-0 in March. They fielded no less than nine regular first teamers but were beaten comprehensively by a Wycombe side that produced some of its best attacking football of the season.

The 2-1 scoreline does not reflect the true pattern of the game as Bournemouth's only consolation was an own goal by Ian Rundle in the last minute of the game. True, Wanderers had to withstand a good deal of pressure in the second half but their opponents were really rattled throughout the first 45 minutes.

Both goals came from Kenny Swain, who again delighted the crowd with some dazzling footwork. If the Blues can hang in to this player next season, they could be a real force to be reckoned with.

Swain, however, was not the only player to shine. Every one of the Wycombe team rose to the occasion. Searle and H. Horseman combined well — Searle in brilliant form at times — while Gane, Holifield and Birdseye fought like tigers in midfield. At the back John Delaney and Dave Bullock completely snuffed out the threat of Phil Boyer and Co.

SPEEDY BLUES

What really caught the Bournemouth players by surprise was the speed of Wycombe attacks. Three or four passes sent them screaming up and down the through ball superlative. The visitors never really found an answer to these raids, and when it was their turn to go forward they seemed extremely short of ideas.

The visitors' offside trap came unstuck in the first couple of minutes when John Delaney played his free kick and sent Bournemouth rushing forward. In the eighth minute Horseman almost opened the scoring but blazed over the top and at the other end Boyer flicked a header straight at Maskell.

But it was Wanderers who broke the deadlock in the 20th minute after a quick move downfield. Searle arched over a long cross to the far post where Swain challenged full back Bobby Howe. The ball ran loose and Ken hooked it back over his head and over goalkeeper Fred Davies to give Wycombe a shock lead.

Minutes later Searle broke clear again but lashed a drive over the top as did Horseman after another lightning fast raid.

Bournemouth, visibly shaken by Wycombe's speed and power, lost their early complacency and it was during this period that Wanderers, against all the odds, made it 2-0 in the 28th minute. Paul Birdseye's astute lob again left Searle clear of the field. Keith raced on and fired in a crashing drive which Davies could only parry and Swain followed up to ram the ball home from close range.

For the remainder of the half, Wycombe continued to dictate events with Bournemouth resigned to defence and the odd attack. It seemed the pattern must change in the second period but in the first 15 minutes of the new half, Wanderers could easily have scored two more goals.

In the 50th minute Mick Holifield picked up the ball in midfield and slipped it through to Horseman. "Bodger" took a couple of strides and crashed in a great shot which Davies turned over the bar in brilliant style. From the corner Delaney rose up to power a header towards the top corner but again the 'keeper fisted the ball over the bar. From the next flag kick Holifield's header was blocked on the line by Howe.

It was tremendous stuff from Wycombe and Bournemouth, no doubt admonished for their first half display at the interval by manager John Bond, were again set back on their heels.

They eventually regained their composure as the half wore on but their attacks were always slow and square, giving Wycombe ample time to deal with any danger. The two centre backs both excelled, Delaney

winning everything in the air and Bullock making himself first every time on the ground.

BOYER CLOSE

It took the visitors 17 minutes of the half to pose John Maskell any problems when Boyer sent in a snap shot after a series of headers. Maskell, however, was perfectly positioned to save the effort.

Apart from forcing a couple of corners, Bournemouth couldn't get close enough to the Wycombe net to reduce the deficit and too often they relied on long range shooting that was badly off target.

Little was seen of the Blues attack in this half but once again Searle gave Powell a torrid time in the air, leaping up and laying the ball off for Horseman and Swain.

In a bid for goals Bond brought on Alan Groves, one of the club's top marksmen in

the 77th minute, but again the visitors' attack looked slow and lethargic.

All Bournemouth could salvage was a gift goal in the 90th minute of the game when Mal Machin sent a harmless looking cross to the far post. Ian Rundle seemed to have the situation under control but, in trying to head the ball past the post for a corner, only steered it into his own net with 'keeper Maskell left helpless.

Nothing, however, could detract from Wycombe's first half performance in what could be their last match of the season. If the Premier Midweek Floodlit League is still undecided before Wanderers go on tour on May 25 they will not play the final. If so, this game will give the Wycombe fans plenty to think over during the summer months.

S.E.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, D. Gamblin; A. Gane, M. Holifield, P. Birdseye; A. Horseman, K. Searle, K. Swain. Sub B. Langfield (not used).

BOURNEMOUTH: F. Davies; M. Machin, T. Powell, J. Benson, B. Howe; J. De'garis, J. Gabriel, T. Mitchison; M. Cave (sub A. Groves 77 mins), P. Boyer, D. Parsons.

Half-time: 2-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Swain 2 (20, 28); Bournemouth — Rundle (own goal 90).

Referee: W. Cleere (High Wycombe). Attendance: 960.



One of the Wycombe midfield men, Mick Holifield in full flight towards the Bournemouth net in Tuesday night's friendly at Loakes Park.